

Wallowa County Chieftain

Published Every Thursday in the
ENTERPRISE PRESS

ENTERPRISE OREGON

Mark Twain has outlived all his contemporary humorists; they may have tried harder to be funny.

Children are to be hatched by electricity; and can't they be given a shock in relation to the egg industry?

A milkman has invented an airship. It ought to be fine for delivering milk to the third and fourth story flats.

In accord with the eternal fitness of things, people who keep burping on disagreeable things should be strung up.

Ellis Wheeler Wilcox asks: "Are the rich as happy as the poor?" Well, the poor man seems to enjoy owning a dog more.

Kaiser Wilhelm has offered two of his castles for sale. Why pay rent when you can buy a castle on easy terms?

It is not much of a compliment to Mr. Rockefeller to call him a captain of industry. He is at least a major-general.

Petrified remains of whales have been found on hill tops in California. When whales were younger they may have been good climbers.

"No one with brains," says Dr. Clara Scott, "will kiss in the future." There is no way of judging the future, doctor, except by the past.

Mrs. Charlotte Gilman Perkins, dear old girl, says American wives are more slaves. We should like to meet Mr. Charlotte Gilman Perkins.

A New York doctor 30 years of age is suing a wealthy widow aged 70 for \$150,000 for breach of promise. How he must hate to doctor people for a living!

A St. Louis man has been fined \$10 for stealing a kiss from a pretty girl. She prosecuted him for petty larceny, or the fine might possibly have been larger.

That prisoner who picked up a board and walked to freedom as a carpenter may be made to answer to a charge of larceny if caught. Boards are expensive now.

If housework is to be designated as "voluntary slavery" in divorce petitions of the future, will the bespeckled man be able to secure release upon a writ of habeas corpus?

A London paper recently published an article under headlines which read: "Sir Unhumble Councillors. Astonishing Story From America." Being determinedly optimistic, we have been glad to believe there were more than "ix."

A Toledo woman wants a divorce because her husband won't kiss her. We reserve judgment until we see the lady. Jack Johnson, prize fighter, is getting \$1,750 a week for touring Australia. The moral of this is that it pays to be a winner.

The Earl of Crews, the Liberal leader in the British House of Lords, announced the other day that the government contemplates such a revision of the coronation oath as will eliminate from it the obnoxious offensive to the Roman Catholics. The Conservative leader welcomed the change as a desirable reform. When the two parties are agreed, it should not be difficult for the government to carry out its purposes.

The one real, all-sufficient, universal over-on-the-job gray in this world, however, is plain, old-fashioned, time-honored and anciently approved ham gray! Just as it is, without one plea—it knocks the spots off any turkey gray with "yolks of eggs, giblets," mushrooms, truffles, or whatnot ever concocted anywhere, or conceived in the minds of mortals! You can't beat it! It is known from the humblest hotel to the lordliest palace, and everybody truthfully inclined will agree without comment.

In the interest of safeguarding coastwise shipping, the Department of Commerce and Labor has made new rules which affect large traffic. They apply mostly to the Atlantic coast, and especially to the coal-carrying trade, since that is the principal industry in which barges are employed. The new rules limit the number of barges which one tug may tow to three, and require that the length of the barge between each two shall not be more than seventy-five feet. The new rules apply only to the three-mile limit within which the department has jurisdiction, but that includes the belt of largest traffic. The long lines of barges have always been regarded as a danger to other shipping.

In thirty States of the Union a mother has no ownership in her own children, and the husband can collect every dollar of their earnings. Is the wife who brings up a family of children, under such conditions as these, not a self-supporting member of the community? Who supports the family, anyway? In the days of our grandfathers the husband paid for a barrel of flour and the wife made that flour

into bread. Converting raw material into a manufactured product is usually more expensive than the raw material itself. The cash value of the wife's contribution to the bread might have been more than the value contributed by the husband to provide the flour. Would she, then, not be as self-supporting as her husband? All this bolderdash about the necessity of economic independence for women is a pretty poor tribute to the intellectual ability of the female reformers who are responsible for so much trouble and unhappiness. Is the woman who draws a salary from the mere man who employs her in his office more independent than the wife who is comfortably cared for by her husband? Or can the wage-earner of either sex be considered as economically independent? There is no sex to brain power of itself. And in this free country there is no more obstacle to a woman attaining economic independence than there is to the man. Stop arguing, sisters. There is no room for argument. Time flies and opportunity flees. If economic independence is your sole object, roll up your sleeves and dig in.

If Admiral Rojestvensky did not literally die of a broken heart, his last years were embittered and his death probably hastened by the obloquy fastened upon him in his own country, while in every other nation he was honored as a brave but unfortunate man. To have taken the Russian fleet from Libau more than half way around the world, and to have marshaled it in fighting condition against the Japanese at Tsushima, would have been a great feat even if the ships had been in perfect condition at the start. Admiral Evans was justly praised for his success in taking our splendidly appointed fleet to San Francisco, a shorter trip, in time of peace, with huzzahing friends in every port. The Russian fleet, far from being in condition for service, was a monument to official greed, neglect and incompetency; its personnel was divided by racial hatreds, bitter at wrongs of misgovernment, hounded with sedition, hopeless of the outcome, and so ill-trained and mot-like that the men trained their guns on harmless British fishermen before they had fairly started and nearly involved in a second war the country which half of them were ready to forsake. They were scarcely more prepared for battle than the Chinese had been ten years earlier. Yet because he raised the white flag when he was hopelessly beaten and he lay wounded and insensible, Rojestvensky was court-martialed by his grateful country and made a scapegoat for a misgovernment of, by, and for the grand dukes. Rojestvensky's task was more hopeless than Cervantes' yet Cervantes, after a natural burst of resentment, retained the respect of his own country as well as of ours. Spain seems to be a better country to serve than Russia.

ERRATIC SCIENCE

Some Wonderful Answers by School-room Small Boys.

"Mushrooms always grow in damp places, and so they look like umbrellas," wrote a small boy in the science examination. Other examples of the "howler" are compiled by a writer in the Scientific American:

"Air is the most necessary of all the elements. If there were no such thing as air I would not be writing this essay now, also there would be no pneumatic tires, which would be a sad loss."

"Electricity and lightning are of the same nature, the only difference being that lightning is often several miles in length, while electricity is only a few inches."

"Air usually has no weight, but found to weigh about fifteen pounds to a square inch."

"The axis of the earth is an imaginary line on which the earth is supposed to take its daily routine."

"The difference between air and water is that air can be made wetter, but water cannot."

"Gravity is chiefly noticeable in the autumn when the apples are falling from the trees."

"Things which are equal to each other are equal to anything else."

"A parallel straight line is one which if produced to meet itself does not meet."

"The blood is putrefied in the lungs by inspired air."

Look in Horseshoes.

The superstition about luck in horseshoes dates back too far for record, but it was not always confined to the horseshoe. Any piece of iron found in one's path was accounted a sign of good luck, and as horseshoes were more commonly picked up than any other article of that metal that particular object at last became the standard emblem of good fortune and the supposed defense against bad luck. In Aubrey's "Miscellanies" written 200 years ago, the author mentions having seen the horseshoe nailed up in church, and he also says that "most of the houses in the west end of London have the horseshoe on the threshold." The horseshoe to possess virtue must have been found, not purchased or looked up. Admiral Nelson had great faith in the luck of the horseshoe, and one was nailed to the mast of his ship, the Victory.—London Chronicle.

They Miss Something.

Patience—I see loitering on postal cards is in violation of the postal regulations of Russia. Patrice—The country postmaster must have a dull time of it over there!—Yonkers Statesman.

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

MURDER THE SAFEST CRIME.

A MOVEMENT is on foot to abolish capital punishment in Illinois, and its advocates insist that fear of the death penalty is no deterrent to crime. For years the Presidents of France have commuted every death warrant to life imprisonment. As a result murder has grown so common that the recent guillotining of the four Police murderers and the slayer of Mr. and Mrs. Demal in public was witnessed by vast crowds, which applauded the executions.

That abolition of the death penalty removes a check on would-be slayers is nowhere more evident than in the United States, where mankind sentiment has made murder the one crime for which a man is least likely to be convicted, even when he commits it.

France and Germany have only 12 per cent as many murders as the United States. Germany convicts nine out of ten accused. France two out of three, England more than 50 per cent, and Italy, with the highest murder record in Europe, convicted last year 2,805 out of 2,896.

The United States executes barely 1 per cent of its slayers, and not 10 per cent are even imprisoned. The unwritten law and other causes have apparently made murder one of our protected industries; although there seems no equivocation or opening for misconstruction in the simple words of the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill."

This hardly seems a time for Illinois to remove any penalty that may influence the would-be murderer to withhold his hand.—Chicago Journal.

CUBA'S PLAIN DESTINY.

BY grace of the United States and in vain pursuit of a policy that fights against the stars in their courses, Cuba again becomes a "self-governing republic" in form. Of course Cuba never has been and never will be "independent" in fact. The indispensable basis of political independence is an economic independence. Cuba's economic prosperity now depends on the grace of the United States. By no conceivable industrial reorganization can this situation be changed.

Furthermore, all the tendencies of mankind are against the continuance of small nations. As mechanical invention makes the earth smaller, so men gather for safety in larger groups. The struggles to preserve tiny nationalities, by means of linguistic and literary revivals, are interesting but futile. The product is, after all, but a paltry piece. When such efforts have apparent success the price is heavy. For instance, the price of the sep-

arate existence of the three Scandinavian groups is the postscript, perhaps forever, of a Scandinavian empire able to play a large part in world affairs.

With a sentimentality that has no place in international affairs, the United States undertook to rescind the price of a war which Spanish folly had made inevitable. For this political blunder no heavy price has yet been exacted. Possibly the Providence which has so visibly protected this nation against its own follies will forgive the debt. Yet it is as certain as the rising of the sun that Cuba will ultimately become American territory in form as well as in fact. Whether by some slow process of absorption or by the red hand of war this end will come, and many now living will see it come.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

FARM HINDERANCES.

ONE would naturally imagine with a \$7,770,000,000 agricultural crop in 1908 that farming is the most profitable industry in the country. The aggregate value of farm products is overwhelming, and yet it shrinks to moderate proportions when apportioned per capita among the agricultural population. Equally distributed among the rural inhabitants, each would receive \$276—not an amount that would represent colossal individual wealth. This distribution does not represent net profit, but aggregate gross production of wealth on the farm per capita.

It is not time that the general government should take more cognizance of the agricultural industry and discover the cause why so many farmers are dissatisfied with their profession? Farming is conceded to be the most important industry in the nation and the foundation of the prosperity of manufacture and other enterprises. An industry of such paramount importance should attract the best men in the country to its exploitation, and yet the profits of many farms are too small for remunerative operation.

It is safe to predict that agriculture will never attain its inalienable position of the most profitable as well as the most paramount of the professions until the government changes its policy in the disposition of public lands. Of what avail is it to the farmer to improve his holdings when the government stands ready to give the immigrant 160 acres of first-class land if he will only agree to make his residence on it? The New England farmers are unable to sell their estates when the government offers to donate a better farm if the homeseeker will agree to live on and improve it. Not until the fertile free lands of the government are exhausted by distribution to competitors will the present condition of farmers be materially improved.—Goodall's Farmer.

AFRICAN MARRIAGE CUSTOMS.

A Woman Never, Under Any Circumstances, Marries Beneath Her.

While the marriage customs of West and Southwest Africa differ of course in different tribes, they have broad lines in common and are in all cases extremely interesting.

A coastal tribe always considers itself superior to an inland tribe and even its meekest member claims to rank higher than the most powerful man of an up country tribe. A man may marry any woman he likes of any tribe, it being held that he gives her his own status, whatever that may be, but it is almost unheard of for a woman to marry "beneath" her. As a result some of the women of the most superior coast tribes, like the Mpongwe, look to marriage with white men and frequently attain it.

The parents on both sides rule absolutely in the matter of marriage between natives. First the would-be bridegroom goes empty-handed to obtain the consent of the bride's father. Then he goes again with gifts and the father calls in other members of the family to view the gifts. On the third visit he carries trade gin, a sufficiently poisonous compound, generally from Hamburg. In the old days it was palm toddy or wine.

On this occasion he pays over an installment of the dowry. On the fourth visit he takes his parents with him and is permitted to see the girl herself. When next he calls his prospective mother-in-law provides a feast for himself and his relatives, the host and his guests eating nothing, but taking a hand in the drinking. Finally the man goes with gifts and the balance of the dowry and takes the woman away. On arrival at his village she is welcomed with singing and a strenuous dance called "nkanja."

For three months the bride is not required to do any hard work, but after that she buckles to with her other wives at gardening and carrying burdens. Polygamy is general and the number of a man's wives limited only by his resources in the matter of paying dowries. The man may divorce his wife whenever he chooses and for almost any reason. But it is rare for a woman to be able to obtain divorce at her own wish. Divorce entails the return of the dowry.

Not the Place for a Hit.

"I wonder why they put the successful pugilist's picture at the bottom of the page in this paper?"

"Why not at the bottom?"

"Because it would have more of a delicate compliment to his skill to have made it an upper cut."—Baltimore American.

Uncle Jerry.

"Too often," said Uncle Jerry Peetees, "when that there thing they call opportunity comes along, by jinks, it's only an opportunity to steal something."

We have noticed that when a farmer travels, he carries less baggage than a 1902 man.

RAM'S HORN BLASTS.

Warning Note Calling the Wicked to Repentance.



It is not the laws we pass but the laws we enforce that show whether we mean what we say.

The devil gets much of his best exercise in finding work for idle hands to do.

The only things we can really own are those we are thankful for. As men get nearer to God they find it easier to get along together.

God can make things plain to some folks that He can't even hint at to others.

The man who doesn't believe in a hell has never seen a drunkard's home.

There is a big place in this world for the man who does not despise the day of small things.

To get where sin can't shock you is to come very close to the place where God can't reach you.

Some people are so afraid of doing something sacrilegious that they don't do anything that is religious.

It is hard for the Lord to do much in the meeting where the clock is watched closer than the preacher.

The home was the first institution God established in this world, and the first the devil tried to break up.

Bear in mind that the devil gets a boy by getting his father first, and he may get yours in that very same way.

You can't scare people into being good any more than you can drive the poison out of a rattlesnake by putting a clothespin on its tail.

BEANS AND GINGER.

It is told of an old-time boarding mistress of Marblehead, a shrewd dame who kept her boarders under admiral control, that once, on Saturday night, a daring man broke the unwritten law of the establishment, and asked a second time for beans. At once several others, who had not dared, but were ready to follow a leader should he succeed, looked up expectantly.

The landlady promptly ladled into the plate of the rash innovator a last spoonful, scraped from the deepest interior of the dish, and sweeping the table with a beaming smile, declared triumphantly:

"There! I calculated on just enough to a bean!"

Second helpings were otherwise discouraged by a boarding mistress of Old Norley. A young school teacher, late to dinner from a skating party, ate little of the half-cold and unappetizing first courses, but ventured a second request for hot mince pie. It was served without comment, but a few minutes after dinner the maid tapped at her door.

"Missus is afraid all that pie won't set well," she announced, "and she says, shan't she make you some ginger tea?"

The kind offer was declined; but a half-hour later the maid appeared again.

"Missus says she's sure you must be needin' ginger tea by now," she stated. "She'll send some right up the minute you say so. It's all ready."

Somewhat less graciously, the offer was declined again; but in a few minutes the maid reappeared with a tray, and, "Here's your ginger tea. Missus says you better be on the safe side, and take it."

Rather sharply the tray was repudiated. Five minutes later the maid knocked once more.

"Missus says she's got to go out, but she ain't just easy in her mind to leave you. She's put your ginger tea on the back of the stove keepin' hot; and you'll find the extract bottle on the second shelf of the pantry, if you want any more. She says she hopes you'll be all right, but that pie was awful rich, and two pieces was enough to upset an ostrich."

They did not disturb the digestion of the healthy and hungry young school mistress; but she never risked inspiring her landlady's solicitude by more second helpings. The ginger tea had cured her of that.

The Little Voice of Experience.

One of the small sons of the Prince of Wales was taken on board a battleship not long ago. It was his first visit to a big ship, and he was deeply impressed and interested, according to the London Daily News, and asked as many questions as the average boy. Finally he asked what was behind a certain closed door.

"That's where we keep the powder," "Do you have to take powder, too?" said the little prince, sympathetically.

Her Latest Luxury.

"Young man," said the heavy father, "do you understand the style in which my daughter has been accustomed to live? She has always had every luxury she wanted." "And now I'm the luxury she wants," murmured the son.—London Globe.

There is luck in an old horseshoe or a four-leaf clover—if you don't meet with a fatal accident or get sick and die.

During the month of August, ninety-nine vessels entered the port of Buenos Aires and not one was American.